

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4464
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CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4364

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LA

SUBJ: "21 ORGANIZATIONS" ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP
AS IT GROWS IN SIZE AND INFLUENCE

SUMMARY: THE LEFT-LEANING AND ACTIVITIST "21 ORGANIZATIONS" HAS NAMED A NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS; IT HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THE AFFILIATION OF SEVEN NEW ORGANIZATIONS BUT RETENTION OF ITS OLD NAME. THE "21" HAVE BECOME THE OSTENSIBLE VANGUARD OF THE LAO "REVOLUTION", AND THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE USING THE ORGANIZATION FOR SOME TIME TO FOSTER ITS POLITICAL PROGRAM ON THE POPULAR LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE SO-CALLED "21 ORGANIZATIONS", SENEKHAM VONGVORARATH, IS QUOTED IN "XAT LON" JUNE 16 AS HAVING ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

-- SECRETARY GENERAL: SISAVANG CHANTHEPHA (LEFTIST ACTIVIST, ALSO JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL MEMBER AND LAO FEDERATION OF LABOR - LFL - PRESIDENT)
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-- SECRETARY FOR AFFAIRS OF SOUTH LAOS: BOUNTHONG
MOUNLAPAMOK (ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY SOURCES,
BOUNTHONG IS FUNCTIONING AS ACTING MAYOR OF PAKSE AND
WAS INVOLVED IN THE RUDE TREATMENT OF A HIGH-LEVEL AUSTRA-
LIAN GROUP WHICH VISITED PAKSE ON JUNE 16 (REPORTED
VIENTIANE 4360))

-- SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS: TANAVONG VORABOUTH
(LEFTIST DEPUTY MAYOR OF VIENTIANE)

-- SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS: PHOUKHAOTHONG PHIMMASONE
(RADICAL LEADER, EDUCATED IN MOSCOW; APPOINTED RECENTLY
BY SOTH PHETRASY TO ELECTRICITE DU LAOS BOARD)

-- SECRETARY FOR CULTURAL AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS: KHAMPHAN
PHIMPHITHAK

-- SECRETARY FOR MILITARY AFFAIRS: SAMEU MOUTHALAY (LEFTIST
ACTIVIST; HEADS LAO-GERMAN TECHNICAL SCHOOL)

-- SPOKESMAN: SENEKHAM VONGVORARATH

-- SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL DIRECTIVES: KHAMHOI (FORMER
LAO STUDENT FEDERATION - LSF - PRESIDENT)

-- SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS: HIEM PHOMMACHANH

-- SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS: BOUNPHONE

THE TEMPORARY CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE "21 ORGANIZATIONS" IS
LOCATED AT LFL HEADQUARTERS IN VIENTIANE.

2. THE "21 ORGANIZATIONS" ALSO ANNOUNCED RECENTLY THE
AFFILIATION OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS: THE ASSOCIATION OF
MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE CORPS; THE SANTI
PHAB KAONA (PEACE AND PROGRESS PARTY, A NEW PARTY GENERALLY
CONSISTING OF FRENCH-EDUCATED, NATIONALIST, LEFTIST NEU-
TRALISTS); LAO WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION; PAK PASASON LAO (LAO
PEOPLE'S PARTY, BUT NOT THE REAL LPP BASED IN SAM NEUA,
BUT A MILITARY-ORGANIZED AND BACKED PARTY OF RIGHTIST/
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NEUTRALIST COLORATION ESTABLISHED IN APRIL); ASSOCIATION
OF MINISTRY OF SPORTS AND YOUTH WORKERS; ASSOCIATION OF
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STAFF MEMBERS; AND THE PHI THAK THAM
ASSOCIATION (ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF JUSTICE).
AT THE SAME TIME THE ORGANIZATION HAS DECIDED TO KEEP ITS
ORIGINAL NAME DESPITE HAVING EXPANDED FROM 21 TO 28,
PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE "REVOLUTIONARY" CONNOTATION WHICH
THE NAME HAS NOW ACQUIRED.

3. OVER THE PST SIX MONTHS THE "21 ORGANIZATIONS" HAS BECOME THE OSTENSIBLE VANGUARD OF THE LAO "REVOLUTION". ITS LEADERS -- SISAVANG, KHAMHOI AND SAMEU -- ARE ALL PRO-LPF AND STRONGLY ANTI-AMERICAN. SISAVANG'S LFL AND KHAMHOI'S LSF HAVE BEEN THE DOMINANT ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE 21; SAMEU'S TECHNICAL SCHOOL HAS BEEN A CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVISM AND ALSO THE SITE OF THE FAR CADETS SIT-IN MAY 11-13 WHICH WAS DEDICATED TO DECLARING CADET OPPOSITION TO "REACTIONARY" LEADERSHIP AT THE FAR MILITARY ACADEMY AND TO MR-V LEADERSHIP IN GENERAL, AND WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE OTHER MILITARY UNITS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHICH LATER EXPERIENCED PROTESTS AGAINST SENIOR VIENTIANE SIDE OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS.

4. THE "21 ORGANIZATIONS" SPONSORED THE MAY 23 RALLY AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM IN VIENTIANE, AT WHICH BOTH SISAVANG AND SAMEU SPOKE, AND EARLIER HAD PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE MAY DAY AND MAY 9 DEMONSTRATIONS. AT THE RALLY SISAVANG STATED THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS TO CELEBRATE THE "GREAT VICTORY" OF THE LAO OVER THE "LARGEST AND STRONGEST IMPERIALISTS IN THE WORLD," AS WELL AS THE "FRESH VICTORY" IN THE "PEACEFUL STRUGGLE OF THE MASSES" IN THE VIENTIANE ZONE TO "WIPE OUT THE INFLUENCE OF THE ULTRA-RIGHTIST REACTIONARY CLIQUE OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE." SAMEU, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE "21 ORGANIZATIONS", TOOK VERY MUCH THE SAME LINE, ATTACKING THE U.S. AND THAILAND AND CALLING FOR CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE "PATRIOTIC FORCES".

5. COMMENT: THE LPF WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO USE THE "21 ORGANIZATIONS" FOR SOME TIME AS ITS MAIN FRONT
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ORGANIZATION FOR AGITATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS
POLITICAL PROGRAM ON THE POPULAR LEVEL.
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